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UA66/5 Newsletter

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Western Kentucky University

Department of Agriculture

Newsletter



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HOMECOMING 2004

BIG RED'S BIRTHDAY BASH!

We have an interesting homecoming planned in the Agriculture Department. Because of all of the changes that have occurred on campus during the past few years we have arranged for a campus bus and tour guide. You will be able to see all the changes including the inside of Diddle and a model dorm room.

We will also offer tours of the farm (it has never looked better!) that will include the new USDA laboratories. Our friend of the year and alumnus of the year will be recognized. Following the noon meal at the Expo Center, we will have a short meeting to inform the alumni of the planned Elrod Road extension that could take as much as 75 acres from the farm. Also following the meal we will offer another farm tour for those of you that missed the morning event.

We hope you can come this year, we would love to see you and share all that is happening.

Ag Homecoming Events Schedule

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Campus Tour

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Campus Tour
Farm Tour 1

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Luncheon at the Expo
Plate Lunch - \$15
RSVP by 10/20/04

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Alumni Meeting

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Farm Tour 2

Alumni Notes

Last year, I attended my first Homecoming since graduation in 1970 and was elected President of the Ag Alumni. What a way to come back home. The key outcome, however, was a reconnection with the Agriculture Department, WKU and fellow alumni. I met friends from my days on the Hill that I had not seen in 33 years!!

I had lunch in early September with Dr. Rudolph and we discussed events for Homecoming, 2004. The Newsletter identifies several happenings within the Department one of which assures future generations of Agriculture students attending WKU with the chance of getting valuable hands-on learning experience at the University Farm. Dr. Rudolph and others will be at the luncheon to discuss this and other changes that have major implications on the mission of the Agriculture Department and Western Kentucky University.

Alumni of the Department are one of its greatest assets. All of us need to support the Agriculture Department in whatever way we can. Attending Homecoming 2004 can be a start. I challenge each of you to call five alumni and come as a group to Homecoming 2004. You will have a great time and leave with a feeling of pride in our heritage. And I promise, you will not be elected to any office.

Ken McGuffey, Class of 1970



Dr. Jack Rudolph, Jr.

A Note from Jack Rudolph, Interim Department Head

For those of you in the WKU Ag Alumni family that don't know me, here is the short version. This is the beginning of my eleventh year at Western. My family and I moved here in 1994 from Laramie and the University of Wyoming. We lived there for seven years and I taught courses in Agriculture Education and Mechanization which were very similar to those I teach here. My wife, Debbie, teaches at Alvaton Elementary and we live in the Hadley community of Warren County. We have three children – Kent, Ashlee, and Rachel, with Rachel being the only one left in college.

I have always been thankful for the opportunity to teach at Western and live in Bowling Green. When Dr. Britt approached me to be the interim department head, I was very surprised and flattered. As each day goes by I appreciate the work of those that have held this position. I don't have to tell any of you that we have a great faculty and staff of very dedicated professionals that will always stop what they are doing to help students. Please come by and visit and see the changes in the Department and on the Campus.



Britt's New Role

Jenks Britt served as Department Head of Agriculture from October 1998 until July 1, 2004. Britt's request to return to a teaching/research/service position was granted by the Dean and Dr. Jack Rudolph was named interim Department Head. During his nearly six years as Department Head Britt was fortunate to add 4 outstanding faculty members to the Department including Drs. **Becky Gilfillen, Byron Sleugh, Paul Woosley and Martin Stone.** **Roger Dennis** has assumed a role as a part time instructor in the floriculture area. The Department's enrollment has grown to about 500 students. Major expansion of farm facilities has resulted in construction of a machinery shed, a livestock teaching pavilion with cattle handling facilities, a second equine arena from the Equine Trust Fund, a milking parlor, an agronomy building, a livestock evaluation counter slope barn, a turf storage building along with numerous small improvements. Immediate future building plans include a new freestall barn, an upgrade of the farrowing barn and another equine barn with boarding facilities for student owned horses. Three classrooms have been upgraded with computers, digital projectors, document cameras, VCR and DVD players.

During Britt's time as Department Head the WKU farm became a USDA-ARS research site with 4 new laboratories and 5 scientists along with 8-10 technicians and support staff.

Britt's teaching duties include Animal Pathology, Physiology and Anatomy of Domestic Animals, Physiology of Lactation, Advanced Dairy Problem Solving, Livestock Management and The Science of Agriculture. In addition Britt is involved in 2 long term USDA funded research projects dealing with Johnes's disease in cattle and has a 2-year funded trial using yeast products in dairy cow rations. Britt and his associates at the University farm recently finished a vaccine safety trial for Novartis Animal Health. Britt is currently supervising 2 graduate students. Britt also serves as leader of the Herd Assistance Program that helps farms solve management problems and coaches the Dairy Challenge Team.

Student Teachers

WKU now has student teachers who may complete student teaching in either fall or spring semesters. Unlike previous years, student teachers are required 16 weeks in the public schools rather than twelve weeks. Therefore, the "block" taken during the first 4 weeks of a semester is no longer offered.

Student teachers include:

Name	Location	Supervising Teacher
Katy Doyle	Greenwood	Ron Tipton
Logan Felts	Greenwood	Jamie Woosley
Derrick Pyles	Logan County	Bryan Estes
Chad Aull	Warren East	Dan Costellow
Laura Noble	Adair Co.	Kirby Hancock
Brandon Davis	Barren Co.	Chris Schalk
Tarry Davis	Barren Co.	Doug Berry
Brandon Weaver	Metcalf Co.	Ronnie Smith
Cary Fisher	Louisville Seneca	Don Reid
Martin Milliken	Logan Co.	Bryan Estes
Carrie Oxley	Breckinridge Co.	Rob de Haven
Nikki King Towe	Barren Co.	Chris Schalk

Thanks to **James Bates** and **James Bailey** for their support in supervising student teachers!

Congratulations to new or returning ag-ed teachers!

Brandon Weaver	Okeechobee Middle, FL
Jason Detre	Nelson Co.
Andy Bishop	Westmoreland HS, TN
Derrick Pyles	Logan Co.
Katy Doyle	Central Hardin
Michelle Baskin	White House Heritage, TN
Andy Preston	Warren Central

WKU Block and Bridle Chapter

The Western Kentucky Block and Bridle Chapter is looking forward to the start of another new and very exciting academic year. Thirty Block and Bridle members traveled to San Antonio, TX to the annual National Block and Bridle convention last February. Our Block and Bridle Chapter came home with two prestigious awards. We placed 5th in the chapter activities award and won 1st place for the chapter scrapbook award. We are the only non-land grant

university to ever win the scrapbook award at the National Block and Bridle Convention.

Western Kentucky Block and Bridle members are very excited about our officer team for this year:

John Rowley, President – Union Co
 Ashley Musselman, Vice President – Noblesville, IN
 Whitney LeGrand, Treasurer – Gallatin Co.
 Amy McGee, Secretary – Gardiner, ME
 Amanda Mullins, Reporter – New Washington, IN
 Frank Korthaus, Scrapbook Chairman – Oldham Co.
 Megan Williams, Social Chairman – Allen Co.
 Melissa Hollis, Social Chairman – Floyd Knob, IN
 Emily Hayden, New Member Ambassador – McLean Co.
 Alicia Bethel, Marshal – Gallatin Co.
 AJ Boden, Barbeque Chairman – Noblesville, IN
 Adam Tattersall, Barbeque Chairman – Southington, CT
 DeAnna Moran, Barbeque Chairman – Warren Co.

Our chapter has some exciting events planned already for this year. We just finished our weeklong recruitment for new students and we are having our annual weekend trip for members. Last year we toured the Jack Daniels Distillery, Kentucky Horse Park, and Keeneland Race Track. In October, we will participate in homecoming activities by sponsoring a homecoming candidate and building a float for the parade. During the Halloween season, Block and Bridle members collect canned foods for the needy. In January, we will be traveling to the National Block and Bridle Convention hosted at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. The rest of the spring semester is gearing up for the Annual WKU Little North American, where members of Block and Bridle work with animals on the WKU farm and break them to show. LNA week will be at the beginning of April. Each night of that week we host a variety of events from Barnyard Olympics to Karaoke. On Saturday we will have our show followed by the Annual Awards Banquet that evening.

We are looking forward to our upcoming year. Feel free to come see us. If you have any questions about our chapter, please contact the Ag Department office at 270-745-3151. See you on the Hill!

– **Fran Korthaus, Scrapbook Chairman**

WKU Agronomy News

(Dr. Becky Gilfillen; Dr. Byron Sleugh; Dr. Todd Willian; Ms. Holly Henderson, Research Technician)

This past year was a busy and rewarding one for us. November 2003 saw the completion of the **Agronomy Research Building**, which is located adjacent to the swine unit on the WKU farm. This new structure provides us with ample room for equipment and sample storage, and has improved our efficiency in carrying out the tasks of our field research. We encourage everyone to stop by and take a look the next time you're on the WKU farm.



New Agronomy Research Building

We continue to focus our research in two areas: nutrient management and pest control. Our nutrient management research is focused on developing best management practices for the utilization of poultry litter on forage and field crops. This research is a cooperative effort between members of the WKU faculty and USDA-ARS personnel. The **USDA-ARS Animal Waste Management Research Unit** is now located on WKU farm, just past the fire station on Bennett Lane. **Dr. Karamat Sistani** is research leader for 3 other scientists and their associated technicians and support staff. We are grateful for the support and cooperation we continue to receive from USDA-ARS. Our research laboratories are located in EST Rooms 124 and 129; **Holly Henderson** coordinates sample preparation and analysis, data management, and supervision of student workers.

During the past year we have had numerous opportunities to travel, both to present information at regional and national conferences and within the context of the student Agronomy Club. In November, **Drs. Gilfillen, Sleugh, and Willian**, along with **Jason Simmons** (M.S. 2004) presented papers at the American Society of Agronomy (ASA) meetings, which were held in Denver, CO. **Dr. Gilfillen** continues to instruct the Soils Judging team which participated in the ASA Southeast Regional contest in Martin, TN and in the NACTA Contest in Kewanee, IL. This past June, **Dr. Sleugh**, along with two undergraduate students, attended the American Forage and Grassland Council's (AFGC) annual meeting in Roanoke, VA. These students represented WKU in the AFGC Forage Quiz Bowl competition and placed 1st – congratulations to **Dr. Sleugh** and the **Forage Quiz Bowl Team**!

Finally, we welcome back **Dr. Linda Brown** who will be resuming full-time teaching and research responsibilities within our department beginning January 2005. For the past few years, Dr. Brown has served as Assistant Dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

Study Abroad Trips

For the eighth year, **David Coffey** has led a Study Abroad trip. Last spring the following students studied agricultural and cultural issues while exploring the Amazon and Andes areas of Ecuador:

Kristie Haynes	Breckinridge Co.
Mitchell Schott	Bowling Green
Jason Simmons	Daviess Co.
Amanda Brawner	Allen Co.
Brandy Murphy	McLean Co.
Jay Campbell	Logan Co.
Matt Simpson	Warren East

Another Ecuadorian adventure is planned for Spring Break. Another adventure to Argentina and Uruguay is planned for July! If interested, contact David Coffey at david.coffey@wku.edu.

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The Spirit Makes the Master

Turf News

Dear Alumni,

This past year has been another successful year in the WKU turf program. One highlight was the Senior PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, KY. Several current students, former students, and faculty (**Pete Dotson and Paul Woosley**) volunteered on the grounds crew to help make the event a success. During the week, we had to battle severe thunderstorms, tornados, and severe flooding of Floyd's Fork. However, we remained in good spirits and survived with nothing more than some wrinkled, waterlogged feet. **Tom Watson** bought everyone pizza and the superintendent, **Mark Wilson**, took good care of us.

Pete had the pleasure with teaming up with **Clarke Fenimore**, a long time WKU alumnus. Pete is quick to point out that Clarke is three years older, but can still get to work on time (5:30 am), do his share of the work, and yes, tell everyone else what to do while smoking a big cigar. The older men worked circles around the young guys. There is something to be said about experience. We all had a blast!

In February, six students and **Paul Woosley** attended the GCSAA conference and trade show in San Diego, CA. The students were able to raise enough money to pay for their tickets and hotel room. Everyone enjoyed touring the trade show and seeing the latest technology in turf products and equipment. Most of the students had never crossed the Mississippi River, much less been to the west coast. The students also had some time to take in the sites of San Diego.

WKU students continue to complete internships across the country. This past year, students have interned at Winged Foot Golf Club, NY, Victoria National Golf Club, IN, and with the USGA in IN, IL, and OH. In January, we will have our third student in six years to intern at Augusta National. The success of our students in finding employment and competing for internships reflects that the turf program is strong academically and is attracting good students.

WKU students have the opportunity to aid in research at the WKU farm and local golf courses. Research conducted this past year dealt with annual bluegrass control, spring dead spot control, and management of seeded bermudagrass. The Taylor Center at the farm has been given a face-lift. The building has been painted, received new doors and windows, new awnings, and new computer and projection equipment for the classroom. A total of seven classes are being held this semester at the Taylor Center.

Finally, a new course is currently under construction in Bowling Green. Olde Stone is an **Arthur Hill** design course. It will consist of creeping bentgrass greens, fairways, and tees which will make it unique to any other course in this area. The roughs will be KY bluegrass surrounded by a links mix of fine fescues and colonial bentgrass. Two alumni, **J.J. Brown** and **Ben Whitney** have been hired as assistants at the course. The course hopes to open August 1st, 2005. Future hopes include the possibility of hosting a PGA event.

We would like to see everyone at homecoming this year. We will be offering a tour of Olde Stone for alumni wishing to see the new construction instead of the football game. Be sure to bring a pair of old shoes if you plan to visit the course. **See you at homecoming!**

Sincerely,

Pete Dotson and Paul Woosley



Horticulture Happenings

The Horticulture program has been busy this past year and next year looks even busier. In cooperation with Mammoth Cave National Park, we have received grant monies that will build a large nursery production pad complete with automated irrigation. We are excited about having an actual pad to conduct research and to cooperate with the Park's work on endangered species such as the ladyslipper orchid and the American chestnut. Most of all we are happy to be able to teach nursery production with a nursery pad. We will complete the pad this fall.

Dr. Martin and Roger Dennis led a garden tour through Europe in July. They visited the world's largest flower auction in Aalsmeer, Netherlands, took boats down canals, visited Pamengarten and other famous gardens in Germany, and finished the two-week tour in France where they visited many gardens including those of Claude Monet at Giverny. **If you are interested in going on the next trip, please contact the department.**

The horticulture club had several plant sales this past year that funded several parties. This year we look forward to more plant sales and trips to the Missouri Botanic Gardens in St. Louis and Callaway Gardens near Atlanta.

The landscape students are designing and installing new landscapes for the USDA buildings at the farm and for the main entrance to the farm. Look for their good works to be completed this fall.

Jaime Crocker is finishing her research and furiously analyzing data trying to complete her M.S. degree before we send her off to a Ph.D. program. She is investigating the economic and cultural feasibility of using municipal green waste, or compost, collected from the city of Bowling Green, as a peat substitute in nursery mixes. She is growing several species of trees and the results look interesting...stay tuned. Peat is a non-renewable resource that, through its harvest, destroys habitat and drains wetlands.

Once again this year, I will be writing columns for the Kentucky Gardener Magazine. Hope you have a chance to peruse this fine publication.

Good Gardening, **Martin Stone**

AGRICULTURE EXPOSITION CENTER

We need air conditioning for the main arena of the Leonard G. Brown Agriculture Exposition Center! We have been trying sincerely for this project to be executed since 1986 and have not been able to secure the necessary funds to accomplish the mission. Through the years, the agriculture supporters have become used to reasonable temperatures in both winter and summer in facilities they use. We have lost some major agriculture events because we have not had reasonable temperatures in June through September (too hot). This not only affects the participants with animals, but also the audience watching the events.

We need \$350,000 to air condition the main arena just like the sales arena, the classrooms, and the main lobby. Part or all of this could be accomplished by donations to the WKU Foundation--Department of Agriculture. Any amount that you alumni could donate will certainly be appreciated for the future of our expanding agriculture programs. Please make out a check to WKU Foundation and indicate on the check that it is for Agriculture Exposition Center air conditioning and mail to:

Department of Agriculture, WKU
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101
Attn: Debbie Gabbard

Thanks for your support!

-Submitted by Col. Robert E. Spiller, Director, Agriculture Exposition Center, 1984-1991

If you have any changes in your contact information, please call the WKU Alumni Office at 270-745-2469 or e-mail Doris Vance at doris.vance@wku.edu.

Agricultural Ambassadors

The **Agricultural Ambassadors** along with advisors **Dr. Jones** and **Dr. Sleugh** are once again leading the department in recruiting and retaining students. Efforts such as our early admission program, phonathon, school visits, and "Focus on Western" began the first week of school and are continuing in full force. The 2004-2005 Agriculture Ambassadors are:

Emily Branstetter	Hardyville, KY
Emily Bishop	Greensburg, KY
Pam Coffey	Nancy, KY
Holly Gilpin	Greensburg, KY
Landon Keown	Smiths Grove, KY
Fran Korthaus	Prospect, KY
Whitney LeGrand	Warsaw, KY
Josh McCubbins	Bardstown, KY
Amy McGee	Gardiner, ME
Ashley Musselman	Noblesville, IN

As ambassadors we have already had a very busy year. Our annual retreat went very well, and we have many great new ideas for recruiting students. Of course, the most important event on our agenda is our annual Early Admissions Open House Program, which will occur on November 22, 2004. This is an chance for students to be admitted to Western for the fall of 2005, tour the campus as well as our farm, and receive an Orientation and Registration Date on that very day! It is a wonderful opportunity for students and we want to encourage you to tell any prospective Western students and their parents that you may know about the day. For any additional information and to receive the registration form they may call the Agriculture Department Office at (270) 745-3151.

We want to thank all Western Alumni for your continued support of the Agriculture Ambassadors. As alumni, you are key in helping us recruit students. You can help us out by sending us the names of students you know, if you are teaching you may allow us to visit your schools, and by informing everyone about our Open House. We thank you and look forward to meeting with you personally at the Alumni Events throughout the year!

Matt Simpson is a Scholarship Winner!

Congratulations to **Matt Simpson** from Warren East for being chosen as one of 4 national recipients for an NAAE scholarship. The National Association for Agricultural Education selects the winners based on scholarship, campus and community involvement, and need. Matt is the first recipient from WKU!

WKU Farm Team

We welcomed **Bob Jaynes** as our new Farm Manager in January of this year. Bob moved to Bowling Green from Janesville, WI where he was the Rock County Farm Manager. Bob is an Agriculture graduate from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

David Newsom accepted a permanent position as our Assistant Farm Manager in March and **John Tako** continues as our Dairy Manager. Both David and John are graduates of the Agriculture Department at Western. David received his Master of Science from Western in December of 2003. John received his Master of Science from Western in May of 2003.



Department of Agriculture Website

Go to:

www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Ogden/Agriculture and check out our updated website! New webpages include the Ag Expo Center, University Farm, and Student Employment. If you have any suggestions for improvement feel free to e-mail our office at agriculture@wku.edu.

HOMECOMING 2004

OCTOBER 23

**Campus and Farm Tours
Expo Luncheon**

**WKU
vs.
Indiana State**

DETAILS INSIDE!



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